

IN THE CLAIMS

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Claims 1-21 (cancelled).

22. (currently amended) A system for maintaining data sources through a directory assistance provider comprising:

an interface for receiving signals in establishing a communication connection with the directory assistance provider, the communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more data sources which are associated with the initiator being identified to the directory assistance provider based on an identifier in the received signals which identifies the communications apparatus;

a receiver for receiving from the initiator a request for taking an action concerning a selected one of the data sources on behalf of the initiator, the initiator being allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the selected data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the selected data source, the request being communicated to an agent for taking the action on behalf of the initiator, the agent ~~directory assistance provider~~ being accorded a level of access to the selected data source, the level of access accorded to the agent being as a function of the level of access allocated to the initiator; and

a processor for determining that the ~~directory assistance provider~~ agent is allowed to take the action on behalf of the initiator when the action is within the set of actions

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associated with the level of access accorded to the agent ~~directory assistance provider~~.

F 23. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the selected data source includes information concerning an individual.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the selected data source includes information concerning a group.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the selected data source includes contact information.

Claims 26 and 27 (cancelled).

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the communication connection includes a telephone connection.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the identifier includes a telephone number.

Claims 30-40 (cancelled).

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41. (currently amended) A system for use by a provider of a communications service comprising:

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at least one data source associated with a user, the data source being searchable for contact information concerning a desired party based on which the provider establishes a communication connection to the desired party for the user, the user being allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the data source[[,]] ~~the provider being accorded a level of access to the data source as a function of the level of access allocated to the user;~~

an interface for receiving a call by the user to the provider, the call including a request for taking an action concerning the data source on behalf of the user, based on at least an identifier associated with the call the data source being identified to ~~the provider based on an identifier associated with the call~~ an agent for taking the action on behalf of the user, the agent being accorded a level of access to the data source, the level of access accorded to the agent being a function of the level of access allocated to the user; and

a controller for allowing the agent ~~provider~~ to take the action on behalf of the user when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the agent ~~provider~~.

42. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the communications

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service includes a voice communications service.

43. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the data source includes a directory.

44. (previously presented) The system of claim 43 wherein the communications service includes a directory assistance service.

Claim 45 (cancelled).

46. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the communication connection includes a telephone connection.

47. (currently amended) A method for maintaining data sources through a directory assistance provider comprising:

receiving signals in establishing a communication connection with the directory assistance provider, the communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more data sources which are associated with the initiator being identified to the directory assistance provider based on an identifier in the received signals which identifies the communications apparatus;

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7 receiving from the initiator a request for taking an action concerning a selected one of the data sources on behalf of the initiator, the initiator being allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the selected data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the selected data source, the request being communicated to an agent for taking the action on behalf of the initiator, the ~~directory assistance provider~~ agent being accorded a level of access to the selected data source, the level of access accorded to the agent being as a function of the level of access allocated to the initiator; and

determining that the ~~directory assistance provider~~ agent is allowed to take the action on behalf of the initiator when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the ~~directory assistance provider~~ agent.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the selected data source includes information concerning an individual.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the selected data source includes information concerning a group.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the selected data source includes contact information.

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Claims 51 and 52 (cancelled).

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the communication connection includes a telephone connection.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the identifier includes a telephone number.

Claims 55-65 (cancelled).

66. (currently amended) A method for use by a provider of a communications service comprising:

maintaining at least one data source associated with a user, the data source being searchable for contact information concerning a desired party based on which the provider establishes a communication connection to the desired party for the user, the user being allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the data source[[,]] ~~the provider being accorded a level of access to the data source as a function of the level of access allocated to the user;~~

receiving a call by the user to the provider, the call including a request for taking

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an action concerning the data source on behalf of the user, based on at least an identifier associated with the call the data source being identified to an agent for taking the action on behalf of the user, the agent being accorded a level of access to the data source, the level of access accorded to the agent being a function of the level of access allocated to the user ~~the provider based on an identifier associated with the call;~~ and

allowing the agent ~~provider~~ to take the action on behalf of the user when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the agent ~~provider~~.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the communications service includes a voice communications service.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the data source includes a directory.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the communications service includes a directory assistance service.

Claim 70 (cancelled).

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71. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the communication connection includes a telephone connection.

72. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the action includes revising data elements in the data source.

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73. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

74. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

75. (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the level of access allocated to the initiator allows the initiator to only view selected data elements in the data source.

76. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the agent directory ~~assistance provider~~ includes an operator.

77. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the agent directory

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~~assistance provider~~ includes a voice server.

78. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the identifier includes a telephone number from which the call originates.

79. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the action includes revising data elements in the data source.

80. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

81. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

82. (previously presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the level of access allocated to the user allows the user to only view selected data elements in the data source.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the action includes revising data elements in the data source.

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84. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the level of access allocated to the initiator allows the initiator to only view selected data elements in the data source.

87. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the agent ~~directory~~ ~~assistance provider~~ includes an operator.

88. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the agent ~~directory~~ ~~assistance provider~~ includes a voice server.

89. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the identifier includes a telephone number from which the call originates.

90. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the action includes

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revising data elements in the data source.

91. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

92. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

93. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the level of access allocated to the user allows the user to only view selected data elements in the data source.

94. (new) The system of claim 41 wherein the agent includes an operator.

95. (new) The system of claim 41 wherein the agent includes a voice server.

96. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein the agent includes an operator.

97. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein the agent includes a voice server.